



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 – Cody Davis 970-244-1605  
District 2 – Bobbie Daniel 970-244-1604  
District 3 – Janet Rowland 970-244-1606

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July 28, 2023

The Honorable Rep. Robert Aderholt  
*Chair*  
U.S. House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rep. Rosa DeLauro  
*Ranking Member*  
U.S. House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairman Rep. Robert Aderholt and Ranking Member Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Chairman Sen. Tammy Baldwin, and Ranking Member Sen. Shelley Moore Capito,

As Congress prepares to deliberate on the funding for fiscal year 2024, I write to express support on behalf of the Board of Mesa County Commissioners, along with the Mesa County Local Area Workforce Region and the National Association of Counties: Community, Economic and Development Committee, for the full funding of Title I and III programs under the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which is funded through the Labor, Health, and Human Services (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill.

Our community has witnessed firsthand the positive impact of WIOA Title I programs, which have aided local employers and job seekers through on-the-job training, internships, and work experiences. The significance of Title III in Mesa County cannot be understated, as it plays a critical role in connecting qualified job seekers with local employers, thereby contributing to the supply of skilled labor and fostering overall workforce development. These invaluable programs have been especially vital in aiding our economic recovery from the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We firmly advocate for retaining local governance authority while enhancing flexibility to cater to the unique needs of businesses and job seekers in our region. By establishing a unified set of standard performance metrics across all core programs and incorporating measures of the effectiveness of serving businesses, the impact and efficiency of these initiatives will be further amplified. Additionally, we support the integration of best practices, such as industry partnerships and career pathways, which will undoubtedly contribute to the success and relevance of the programs. Moreover, our focus on youth services targets out-of-school and disconnected youth between the ages of 16-24, ensuring that the younger generation is not left behind during their transition into the workforce.

The WIOA one-stop center delivery system, with its wide-ranging access to job search assistance, workforce training, and career services across various locations nationwide, has proven invaluable, empowering individuals to achieve their employment goals and resolving local workforce challenges.

Mesa County is one of the 28 percent of WDBs within a county department or function as a county department. In Mesa County, 62.79 percent of job seekers are added permanently to the employer's payroll after they utilize our Title I and III programs. Additionally, 65.24 percent of those job seekers are still employed with that same employer one year after using Title I and III programs.



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Through the Wagner Peyser funding, Mesa County has saved employers \$2,388,302. This combines job postings, fairs, hiring events, and profiling. These programs embody the “Earn While You Learn” model with the flexibility to meet local needs and support local solutions. Without these workforce development funds, Mesa County and rural counties throughout the United States will be detrimentally impacted.

In Mesa County, job acquisition and workforce development are the most important and successful social programs. We aim to keep our citizens meaningfully employed while investing in pathways out of poverty.

Please consider the incredible success Mesa County has built. We invite you to come to Mesa County and view the programs first-hand.

We respectfully request your continued support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Sincerely,